



14/07/2025

Deputy Sorca Clarke,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 36051/25

Dear Deputy Clarke,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above PQ 36051/25, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

In May 2023, the HSE established the National Traveller Health Implementation Group (NTHIG) to oversee implementation and monitoring of the National Traveller Health Action Plan 2022-2027 (NTHAP). To support the implementation of the forty-five actions in the NTHAP, Traveller Health Units (THUs) were set up in 7 of the 9 former Community Health Organisations (CHOs). THUs supported the development of local implementation plans, monitoring and reporting progress to NTHIG. Where there is no Traveller Health Unit in operation, there are local NTHAP implementation groups that oversee implementation of CHO/THU plans. NTHIG has put in place tracking and monitoring mechanisms to monitor implementation of all actions, including those contained in CHO/THU plans. There are also a number of sub-groups responsible for driving specific actions, who report on a bi-monthly basis to NTHIG.

There are six actions in NTHAP that relate to Traveller mental health, which are reported on regularly as part of the monitoring process. The HSE has also established a National Traveller Mental Health Working Group to serve as a central coordination group to monitor progress, streamline, and influence the prioritisation of actions identified in various Mental Health policies and strategies aligned with the National Traveller Health Action Plan.



NTHIG have prioritised the implementation of Action 11 of NTHAP *‘Ensure the implementation of a standardised ethnic identifier across all health administrative systems to monitor access, participation and outcomes of all groups, including Travellers, and to inform the development of evidence-based policies and services.’* An Ethnic Equality Monitoring and Data sub-group has been established to identify and support opportunities to include a standardised ethnic identifier (EI) in all health information systems and in health datasets within the HSE to enable collection, collation and analysis of ethnicity data.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Aisling Heffernan

Integrated Healthcare Area Manager, HSE Dublin South and Wicklow

Chair of the HSE National Traveller Health Implementation Group